

A GEL COMPOSITION FOR SKIN CARE AND PROTECTION AND A METHOD FOR
PREPARATION THEREOF

Field of the Invention

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The present invention generally relates to a gel composition useful for skin care and protection, and to a method for its preparation. More specifically, the present invention relates to a novel liquid gel composition comprising up to 80% w/w Dead Sea water and hydrophobic or hydrophilic active agents, such as vegetable oils, free fatty acids, vitamins, humectants, α - hydroxy acids, anti irritant agents, plant extracts, moisturizing agents and hydrolyzed plant proteins, or any combination thereof.

The gel composition of the present invention provides a vehicle of highly concentrated Dead Sea minerals and active agents to the skin preferably in the form of a clear gel.

Background of the Invention

The skin, which is composed of three layers differing in their cell types and special functions; an overlaying epithelial layer (epidermis), an underlying connective tissue matrix (dermis) and adipose tissue (hypodermis), is the largest organ in the body and serves as, *inter alia*, a protective barrier from the external environment, impeding the entry of microorganisms, absorption of radiation and loss of water.

Physiologists assume that specific ions from minerals play important roles, mainly in the metabolism of healthy skin, mainly as co factors in enzymatic regulation activities. For example, there are indications that Mg^{+2} is a co factor for phosphate transferring enzymes and participates in cAMP/cATP regulation. Ca^{+2} is thought to regulate cell membrane permeability and K^{+} to enhance CO_2 transport. Also, Zn^{+2} may participate as a co factor in cell proliferation enzymatic regulation. In some *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests magnesium bromide, magnesium chloride, and potassium

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bromide exhibited inhibition of skin cell proliferation after dermal application (Ma'or Z., Magdassi S., Efron D. and Yehuda S. (1996) *Israel Journal of Medical Sciences* 32(supp.3), 28 - 35) .

Minerals are capable of restoring moisture due to their hygroscopic characteristics. Minerals, if absorbed into skin cells, may enhance intracellular water capacity, and add water to the skin tissue from within.

Minerals may be absorbed into the skin from brine, from a bath with dissolved salts, or from dermal application of a mineral rich preparation. The skin is a multilayered biomembrane with certain absorption characteristics. As a dynamic living tissue, its absorption parameters are susceptible to constant changes. When applying a cosmetic blend, the most relevant parameter is the concentration cascade between each specific dissolved ion, outside and inside the skin surface. During the absorption process, a partitioning of minerals from the vehicle to skin may occur. The nature of the vehicle, namely the type of cosmetic preparation (e.g. a lipophilic cream or a hydrophilic gel), is significant in determining the kinetics of the process of skin penetration.

About 4 -5% of the human body is made up of minerals. Some skin disorders are related to a specific mineral shortage. It is assumed that specific ions from minerals play an important role in healthy skin metabolism.

The Dead Sea is the richest natural mineral source in the world, with a concentration of 32% (w/v) dissolved minerals and a unique composition.

The main elements found in Dead Sea water are chlorine, magnesium, sodium, calcium, potassium and bromine. For example, the concentration of chlorine in the Dead Sea is 224900 mg/l as opposed to 22900 in the Mediterranean and 19000 in typical ocean water. Magnesium is 44000 mg/l in the Dead Sea as opposed to 1490 and 1350 in the Mediterranean and ocean, respectively. Sodium is 40100 mg/l in the Dead Sea as opposed to 12700 and 10500 in the Mediterranean and ocean, respectively. Calcium is 17200 mg/l in the Dead Sea as opposed to 470 and 400 in the Mediterranean and ocean, respectively. Potassium is 7650 mg/l in the Dead Sea as opposed to 470 and 390 in the Mediterranean and ocean, respectively and bromine

is 5300 mg/l in the Dead Sea as opposed to 76 and 65 in the Mediterranean and ocean, respectively.

Many people, after bathing in the Dead Sea's salty water, reported a "baby smooth skin" feeling, and it is well known that minerals from the Dead Sea, as sea water, sea bath salts or sea mud have cosmetic and therapeutic effects on the skin (for example see Ma'or Z. and Yehuda S. (1997) *International Journal of Cosmetic Science* 19:105-110). However, treatment with these minerals has several drawbacks. It may be quite expensive and inconvenient for patients to travel to the Dead Sea itself for receiving treatment, and bringing the minerals to the patient's home may prove to be inconvenient. Large amounts of mineral ingredients (10kg Dead Sea mud or salts for each treatment) must be applied and the treatment may be messy (such as treatment with Dead Sea mud). Furthermore, domestic metal pipes may be corrosively attacked while taking a highly concentrated mineral bath.

Many Dead Sea cosmetic preparations sold today actually contain a very small amount of minerals due to technical difficulties in using the highly electrolyte concentrated Dead Sea solutions in cosmetic formulation and due to product stabilization.

The present invention offers a highly concentrated Dead Sea mineral gel which is a superior vehicle of minerals and hydrophobic and hydrophilic active agents that have beneficial effects on the skin, to the cosmetic preparations sold today.

The composition of the present invention has the benefits of treatment with Dead Sea minerals, but non of the drawbacks. It is easy and simple to use and in contrast with the treatments used today, may be in prolonged contact with the skin, enhancing the beneficial effects of the Dead Sea minerals.

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In the composition of the present invention the hydrophobic active agents may be vegetable oils, free fatty acids or vitamins, or any combination thereof and the hydrophilic active agent may be humectants, α - hydroxy acids, anti irritant agents, plant extracts, moisturizing agents or hydrolyzed plant proteins or any combination thereof. The gel may further comprise antioxidants and fragrances.

a) heating the mixture of hydrophobic active agent and solubilizer to approximately 40°C while mixing; adding a mixture, at room temperature, of 15%w/w water and 30.0% w/w Dead Sea water, and heating again to approximately 40°C while mixing;

c) adding the product of step b) to the product of step a) while mixing, and cooling to room temperature.

According to specific requirements, a) may further comprise a prior step of adding antioxidants and/or fragrance to the hydrophobic active agent and solubilizer, and step b) may further comprise adding the hydrophilic active agent together with the gelling agent and the remaining water and Dead Sea water.

Detailed description of the invention

Intro

The present invention relates to a composition comprising up to 80% Dead Sea water, hydrophobic and/or hydrophilic active agents, solubilizers and gelling agents or any viscosity modifiers for care of skin conditions, such as wrinkles, for retaining skin moisture, and for care of skin related diseases.

The nomenclature used in the present invention to describe agents and compounds used in the present compositions, is the INCI nomenclature.

Hydrophilic active agents which may be used in the composition of the present invention may be humectants, such as glycerin, glycereth - 7 or 12 or 26, butylene glycol, propylene glycol, panthenol, sorbitol and sorbitan laureth, or α - hydroxy acids, such as citric acid, lactic acid, glycolic acid and malic acid or anti irritant agents, such as allantoin, PEG - 28 or PEG - 82 glyceryl stearate or plant extracts, such as aloe barbadensis extract or gel, balm mint extract, Calendula officinalis extract, Fenugreek extract Ginseng extract, Horse chesnut extract, Ivy extract, Jujube extract, Matricaria extract and Witch hazel extract, or moisturizing agents, such as sodium hyaluronate, sodium PCA, sodium lactate, glycolipids, ceramides, sphingolipids and phospholipids and hydrolyzed plant proteins, such as hydrolyzed soy protein, hydrolyzed silk protein, hydrolyzed wheat protein, and hydrolyzed rice protein.

Hydrophobic active agents which may be used in the composition of the present invention may be vegetable oils such as avocado oil, borage oil, evening primrose oil, jojoba oil, palm kernel oil, rosehip oil, sunflower oil and wheat germ oil, or free fatty acids that are useful as moisturizers, such as ascorbic acid, linoleic acid and linolenic acid, or vitamins useful for treating skin aging effects such as ascorbyl palmitate, retinol, retinyl acetate, retinyl palmitate, retinyl propionate, tocopheryl acetate and tocopheryl linoleate.

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The basic formula of the composition of the present invention is:

Dead Sea water	30.0 - 80.0% w/w
solubilizer	up to 4.0% w/w
hydrophilic active agent	up to 3.0% w/w
gelling agent	0.7 - 1.2% w/w
hydrophobic active agent	up to 0.8% w/w
fragrance	up to 0.4% w/w
anti oxidant	0.05 - 0.2% w/w
deionized water	to complete to 100% w/w

The present invention further relates to a method for the preparation of the said composition. The basic method comprises the following steps:

- heating the mixture of hydrophobic active agent and solubilizer to approximately 40°C while mixing; adding a mixture (at room temperature) of 15% w/w water and 30.0% w/w Dead Sea water, and heating again to approximately 40°C while mixing;
- in a different receptacle mixing the remaining Dead Sea water, water and gelling agent and heating to approximately 60°C while mixing, cooling to 40°C after receiving a clear solution;
- adding the product of step b) to the product of step a) while mixing, and cooling to room temperature.

Further additions, to the basic formula of Dead Sea water, hydrophobic active agents, solubilizer and water, according to specific requirements, comprise a prior step of adding to the above mentioned step a) anti oxidants and/or fragrances together with the hydrophobic active agent and solubilizer, and step b) further comprises adding the hydrophilic active agent together with the gelling agent (or any other viscosity modifier) and the remaining water and Dead Sea water.

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The composition prepared according to this method may be used as a substitute for bath salts, and the reported "baby smooth skin" feeling when using Dead sea water is achieved without having to use large amounts of salts, and without exposing the domestic pipes to the corrosive effect of these salts. The present composition offers the added benefit of being able to "wear" the composition on the skin for many hours, thus being exposed to the benefits of the Dead Sea minerals for a longer time, enhancing their action towards skin care and protection.

The method of the present invention achieves solubilizing a hydrophobic agent in water which is highly concentrated with salts. Furthermore, the composition of the present invention is unique in that it may be a clear, transparent gel.

Transparency of the gel has important esthetic benefits; the clear transparent product may be sold in a transparent package showing off the homogeneity of the product. Also, colored active agents may be added to the gel for beauty in an encapsulated form.

Therefore, the composition of the present invention provides a superior vehicle of highly concentrated Dead Sea minerals and hydrophobic or hydrophilic active agents to the skin in the form of an esthetically superior clear gel.

The said invention will be further illustrated by the following examples. These examples do not intend to limit the scope of the invention but to demonstrate and clarify it only.

Examples

The following formulas of the peresent composition were prepared, formed a gel and were found stable for 4 weeks at 45°C. Formula I formed a clear transparent gel.

(the nomeclature used in the following examples are INCI names):

Formula I

Dead Sea water	75.0% w/w
oleth-20	3.0% w/w
glycereth-26	2.0% w/w
hydroxyethylcellulose	0.8% w/w
vitamin E-acetate (tocopheryl acetate)	0.3% w/w
lavender oil	0.3% w/w
BHA	0.1% w/w
deionized water	to complete up to 100%

Formula II

Dead Sea water	50.0% w/w
oleth-20	2.0% w/w
glycerin	3.0% w/w
hydroxyethylcellulose	1.0% w/w
vitamin A-palmitate (retinyl palmitate)	0.2% w/w
patchouli oil	0.2% w/w
BHA	0.1% w/w
deionized water	to complete up to 100%

Formula III

Dead Sea water	30.0% w/w
oleth-20	4.0% w/w
glycereth-26	2.0% w/w
hydroxyethylcellulose	0.8% w/w
vitamin E acetate	0.6% w/w
sandalwood oil	0.2% w/w
BHA	0.1% w/w
deionized water	to complete up to 100%

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